

Application No. 10/075,451

PROPOSED

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A container and lid combination, comprising:

a container including:

a bottom surface,

an opening,

a top edge surrounding the opening, and

a first attachment mechanism comprising a plurality of first attachment projections provided on the bottom surface, the first attachment projections having respective first engagement surfaces that each form an acute angle with respect to the bottom surface;
and

a lid engageable with the top edge of the container to cover the opening, the lid including:

an inside surface that faces an interior of the container when the lid is engaged with the top edge of the container,

an outside surface that faces away from the interior of the container when the lid is engaged with the top edge of the container,

a second attachment mechanism provided on the inside surface and engageable with the first attachment mechanism, the lid being attachable to the bottom surface of the container in a nested state via engagement of the first and second attachment mechanisms, and

a third attachment mechanism provided on the outside surface and engageable with the first attachment mechanism, the third attachment mechanism comprising an inner set of ~~one or more~~ inner attachment projections and an outer set of ~~one or more~~ outer

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attachment projections, the inner attachment projections and the outer attachment projections having respective third engagement surfaces that each form an acute angle with respect to the outside surface,

wherein the lid being is attachable to the bottom surface of the container in an inverted state via engagement of the first and second attachment mechanisms such that the first engagement surfaces engage at least some of the third engagement surfaces.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The container and lid combination according to claim 1, wherein the second attachment mechanism comprises ~~at least one~~ a plurality of second attachment projections protruding from the inside surface of the lid, the second attachment projections having respective second engagement surfaces that each form an acute angle with respect to the inside surface and engage with the first engagement surfaces.

6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The container and lid combination according to claim 1, wherein at least one portion of the container is transparent.

9. (Original) The container and lid combination according to claim 1, wherein, as seen in plan view, an outer circumference of the lid is free of any protrusions.

10. (Original) The container and lid combination according to claim 9, wherein the container further comprises a ridge provided around an outer periphery of the container near a top edge of the container, one or more notches being provided in the ridge to facilitate a user's access to the lid when the user removes the lid from the container.

11. (Previously Presented) A nesting container and lid set comprising:
a plurality of containers, the containers being of different sizes and thereby nestable together, at least two of the containers each including:

a bottom surface,

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an opening,

a top edge surrounding the opening, and

a container-side attachment mechanism provided on the bottom

surface, the container-side attachment mechanism comprising a plurality of first attachment projections provided on the bottom surface; the first attachment projections having respective first engagement surfaces that each form an acute angle with respect to the bottom surface;

and

a corresponding plurality of lids engageable with the top edges of the containers to cover the openings, at least one of the lids including:

an inside surface that faces an interior of the container when the lid is engaged with the top edge of the container,

an outside surface that faces away from the interior of the container when the lid is engaged with the top edge of the container, and

an outside surface-side attachment mechanism provided on the outside surface and engageable with the container-side attachment mechanism of the at least one of the containers, the outside surface-side attachment mechanism comprising an inner set of ~~one or more~~ attachment projections and an outer set of ~~one or more~~ attachment projections, the inner attachment projections and the outer attachment projections having respective third engagement surfaces that each form an acute angle with respect to the outside surface;

wherein the bottom surface of a smaller one of the at least two of the containers is attachable to the outside surface of the at least one of the lids via engagement of ~~the container-side attachment mechanism~~ the first engagement surfaces and with the third engagement surfaces of the inner set of one or more attachment projections, but is not attachable via engagement of the first engagement surfaces ~~container-side attachment mechanism~~ and the third engagement surfaces of the outer set of one or more attachment

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projections, and a larger one of the at least two of the containers is attachable to the outside surface of the at least one of the lids via engagement of the first engagement surfaces with the container side attachment mechanism and the third engagement surfaces of the outer set of one or more attachment projections.

12. (Previously Presented) The nesting container and lid set according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the lids further comprises an inside surface-side attachment mechanism provided on the inside surface and engageable with the container-side attachment mechanism, the lid being attachable to the bottom surface of the corresponding container in a nested state via engagement of the container-side and inside surface-side attachment mechanisms.

13. (Original) The nesting container and lid set according to claim 11, wherein, in the nested state of the containers and lids, each lid is attached to the bottom surface of the corresponding container, with a lid corresponding to a largest one of the containers optionally being engaged with the top edge of the largest one of the containers.

14-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The nesting container and lid set according to claim 11, wherein at least one portion of each container is transparent.

18. (Previously Presented) The nesting container and lid set according to claim 11, wherein, as seen in plan view, an outer circumference of each lid is free of any protrusions, with the outer circumference of a largest one of the lids optionally not being free of any protrusions.

19. (Original) The nesting container and lid set according to claim 18, wherein each container further comprises a ridge provided around an outer periphery of the container near a top edge of the container, one or more notches being provided in the ridge to facilitate

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a user's access to the lid when the user removes the lid from the container, with a largest one of the containers optionally not including the ridge and/or the one or more notches.

20. (Canceled)

21. (New) The nesting container and lid set according to claim 12, wherein the inside surface-side attachment mechanism comprises a plurality of second attachment projections protruding from the inside surface of the lid, the second attachment projections having respective second engagement surfaces that each form an acute angle with respect to the inside surface and engage with the first engagement surfaces.